



October 2018
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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I returned from such an amazing trip to Africa and was home for ten days before I left for Lithuania. I took longer to reach there than it does for me to get to Malawi!!! I had a night going and one coming back in Helsinki, Finland and was able to reconnect with some of our wonderful Finnish friends.

It was my first trip to Lithuania and I had been invited several times and always had a calendar too full to fit it in, but God knows the perfect timing.

WOW is what I experienced. While many of the churches are splintered and the flock scattered because of sin in the leadership (not unlike many western countries) but there is such an hunger among those who have left the local church and have formed house groups so that they can pray together and share the Word and care for one another. We must be very careful that there is order in these groups and that if we belong to one it is firmly based on the church of the book of Acts - one brings a song, and another shares the Word, and some bring powerful edifying testimonies and that it does not break down eventually into gossip sessions. Just because some cannot find a church to worship, we cannot malign the church. The tongue can be so vicious. As I told one

"If you start a church then it will no longer be perfect because you are in it."

The pastors I met are excited about God and what He wants to do, and their churches reflect just that because they have infected their congregations. I spoke at a Monday evening meeting - who goes to church on a Monday anymore? And it was not a specially organized meeting because I was there.

I learned some of the history - Lithuania was part of the USSR. I saw footage of documentaries showing the Chain of Freedom or Baltic Chain. On August 23, 1989 Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia formed a chain of people that stretched over 400 miles through all three nations and involved over 2 million people. It was a peaceful demonstration against Russia. Within seven months Lithuania was the first to declare independence.

Imagine the unity and dedication and organization it took. Imagine how powerful the church would be world-wide if we operated in the same fashion. The devil has come to divide and has been extremely successful. It is time to realize he is an old lion with decayed teeth and missing claws and for us to rise up in the power of the Holy Spirit and be all we can be. That is an army slogan so why is it not ours. We are the army of the Lord after all.

ALABASTER | MINISTRIES

8514 N. Donna Ct. Kansas City, MO 64153

"He shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meant for the master's use and prepared for every good work."

Letters from the Bible School

JOSEPH GUME

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus. I write to thank you for the support that you have been giving me and my family. I also convey my gratitude for the Bible School which has had a great impact on my life. How I ever thought that I was a pastor before is an amazement to me. I knew nothing and my wife who was so quiet and shy will not stop preaching! I thank the teachers for their sacrifice because now we know the Word and we know how to preach it because we have the fire of the Holy Spirit. I was filled with the Holy Spirit after being taught about Him. Now my church also knows. God bless you always. We will miss the school after we graduate in February.



DAVID MASTERD

I would like to thank you for this Bible School. It has really transformed my life and since my wife has been coming it has made such an amazing change in her life too. Thanks to all the teachers for the wonderful work they have done. I was touched during the evening sessions when we prayed together singing "Holy, holy, holy and glory, glory, glory," to God. Wow, what an awesome experience. Next time you come please teach us something new again. I plan to go back to my church and have the congregation do it. How can my life not change when we feel His presence? God bless you always.

ERNEST ZUZE

I would convey my heartfelt thank you to you and the LEADERSHIP OF Alabaster Ministries. We have never had people come to Nsanje district, identify with us and live among us as you have. You eat the same things we eat and sleep in an uncomfortable tent while we sleep comfortably in the church. You help the cooks prepare our meals and if there is not enough you go without so that we do not have to. You do all this because you are true servants. Thank you very much for showing me this example and I will try to follow it all my life. You humble yourself to sleep in a tent instead of going to a lodge each night. We believe all that you teach because of these things that we see in you. May God bless you always.

MANDALA ZONGOLOTI.... I thank the Lord for positioning you in our lives and all of us in the Nsanje district and we praise God for it. I am grateful for the wonderful team you work with. Most of the things happening here would be impossible if you did not pass on your work ethic to your dedicated team.

I would like to thank you for the Bible School which has transformed Nsanje in so many ways and I pray that many more people will come to this Bible School and benefit from it as we all have. As we prepare to graduate in February, we pray that we will continue the work as you have taught us and teach our congregations the things you have taught us.

ABOUT US

We, Alabaster Ministries are based in the United States with a tax-deductible status under 501(c)(3). We also have representation in the United Kingdom and are covered by Stewardship Services. Our representatives there are Michael and Penny Shellswell.

Phone: +44-7780-383452 (Michael)
+44-7551974316 (Penny)

In Malawi we have Oresti and Julie Yiannakis who are a wonderful support and without whom it would be extremely difficult for us to operate.

Our staff comprise of local Malawians, and volunteer staff in the USA and UK.

It is our belief that we should train the locals to one day be able to totally run every aspect of the ministry in their nation and to train the next generation to one day take over while we support and give advice where needed.

God has blessed us with an amazing team of people who are always ready and willing no matter what comes against us. God is in charge and is faithful when we are about His business.

This is an exciting ministry to be a part of and we so appreciate your support.

CONTACT US

You can support this exciting and vibrant ministry by sending checks to:

Alabaster Ministries
8514 N Donna Ct
Kansas City, MO 64153

OR

Via the web site direct to
PayPal.

☎ Telephone (636)358-4615

✉ Email alabastermin@aol.com
Email rozheyns@gmail.com

🌐 Website: www.rozheyns.org

REPORT FROM FRANCIS

REPORT FROM ERIC

Dearly beloved,

I greet you in the precious name of our wonderful savior Jesus Christ. I pray that the Lord has been faithful to you and your families just as He has been true to us here in the Warm Heart of Africa. I have just returned from Marka on the Mozambique border, where we had such a great fellowship with the elderly. It always amazes me when I see the things the Lord can do when we truly begin to delight in Him. God works in mysterious ways and often uses the unexpected things around us to teach us something new and show us just how immeasurable His power is.

We are always encouraging one another to be free to engage in conversation whenever we have meetings with the elderly because you pick up a thing or two through conversation. It is not always that we have a very excited group because the elderly have so many challenges and sometimes it is hard to cheer them up and to get them to participate in whatever activity we might be doing at the time, but this time was different. I had such a warm reception and because of it we enjoyed our fellowship so much that I left when it was just getting dark. I have learned from my recent experience that our attitude towards one another decides how we interact and determines the outcome of our interaction. Likewise, our attitude towards heaven determines just how much of His wonderful blessed Holy Spirit He is prepared to pour on us. Sometimes we miss out on so much because our heart and attitude aren't in the right place. If my attitude towards the elderly is that they are not worthwhile, then I cannot successfully execute my duties as a chaplain to them because my purpose is defeated by my attitude. All my efforts would be futile, and my words would fall on deaf ears. They need to see the LOVE that I preach about in me before they can even begin to accept it. We cannot just teach it, but we must live it. They need to see in me the light and life that I bring to them so that they can follow. I am so greatly humbled by this revelation and I pray that we should all strive to have the right attitude towards one another so that we can begin to enjoy our personal relationships as well strengthen our relationship with God in heaven.



The elderly group at Marka

REPORT FROM PETER



The simplest reason I can think why Christ is called the Word is because He reveals the mind of God the Father to the lost and dying. The Gospel of John starts by asserting that Christ was there in the beginning before all was made and that everything that was made was by His Word. He wasn't just an instrument in creation, but everything was made by His Word; from the greatest wonders and mysteries of this world to the lowly worm burrowing in the dirt of this world.

With this knowledge we begin to see the great power that lies in simple words. I am not saying that our words have the same power of creation, how could that be? Nevertheless, there is incredible power that lies in spoken words. Adam and Eve heard a voice that caused them to sin and thus were thrown out the garden, Abraham heard a voice and became the father of a great nation, Moses heard a voice and became a champion of many dying souls, Solomon heard a voice and became the wisest man that ever lived, Saul heard a voice at the witch in Endor and led his army and family and nation to ruin and death, and Christ calmed the seas with nothing but the words from His mouth.

We love to say that "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me" to protect ourselves. Yes, it is true that it is important to avoid letting the negative things that people say about us get to us. It is important to avoid all that negativity we hear to get a hold of us and wear us down, but it is also equally important not to underestimate the incredible power that lies in simple words. We can use our words to bless others, to bring great joy and to heal but we can also use them to inflict great sorrow, to curse and to spread unbelievable malice and hurt as history proves to us over and again. I remember Mom Roz telling us about her daughter when she was in medical school. She said on Superbowl night they had the highest number of physically abused wives come into the hospital for treatment because their husbands got drunk and were angry if their team lost. One lady with a badly bruised face and broken arm told her, "My arm and face will heal but I always remember his words – they never go away.

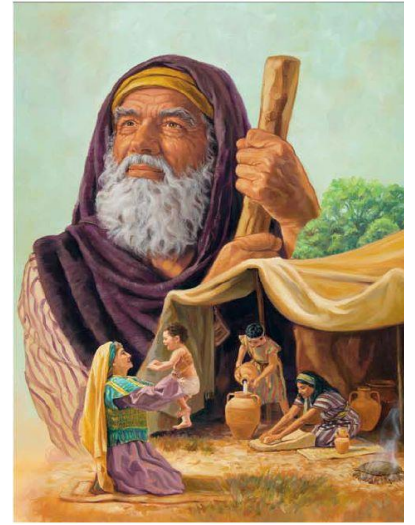
Our tongues can be the most difficult to control and can leave us greatly regretting the things we say to others if what comes out of hearts and minds continue to spread hurt in societies. The saying "sticks and stones" is forever becoming narrow and vague when the repercussions of things said to others are more apparent in our societies. A misplaced joke could wear down someone for years, lashed out reactions could cause great bitterness and sorrow to someone, and misplaced discipline always bears negative results. I find that there is hope in learning to discipline the smallest member we have through constant reading of the Word and learning from the Holy Spirit. Be mindful of the things that we say to people; say the truth, speak life, and speak love, and spread healing. The most wonderful thing is that the Bible tells us that Jesus is the WORD. He wants to so fill us with His life and attributes that we radiate Him wherever we go.

REPORT FROM SHADRECK

I greet you in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that you are all well. The rains are here, and everyone has taken to their fields in readiness for planting. We would like you to keep us in your prayers for a favorable gentle rain which will soak the ground and not one that will result in flooding. There's already talk of a bad El Nino and blowing from the Indian Ocean on the Mozambique side. I pray it doesn't come to that for that has the potential to cause a shift in the rain pattern across Malawi.

I held a meeting with the Elderly at Pastor Joseph Gume's church in Mozambique on the 20th and we discussed several things including the call of Abraham. God called Abraham to serve and brought him out of his beloved home to a distant land. He called him and took him out of his comfort zone, away from everything that he held so dear to himself. God also took him from dear friends and beloved family for purpose which he could not fully understand at the time. Perhaps Abraham was a good man. Perhaps he was a man of great repute and did many good things that helped his society. Either way God called him away from that and Abraham heard and answered the call.

God calls us all to fulfil diverse purposes because He has designed and assigned a purpose for each one of us to be "somebody" for the Kingdom. Often, we hear people say I am a "nobody" and there is very little I can do with my few skills and knowledge when in fact everyone is "worthwhile" in the



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SHADRECK CONTINUED.....

eyes of the beholder. It really does not matter how old you are, all it takes is for one to step out in faith and obedience to answer the call and really begin to diligently go about doing what you are purposed to do.

Because Abraham stepped out in obedience to answer the call, a great many generations were unbelievably blessed of God even unto the miraculous coming of our gracious Lord Jesus. Sometimes all it takes is for one person to step up for great things to happen but to stay idle may cause evil to thrive. So many people say they have always felt like doing this and that but have never really attempted it for whatever reason. I believe every journey begins with one step, just like Abraham heard the call and decided to take it up and follow God's purpose. First Abraham heard the call, and stepped out in faith, believing that God will meet him along the way. Sometimes we seek after great signs to see if what we feel we are doing is really what we were purposed to be doing, but it seldom occurs that we get such a sign. The necessary thing to do is take the leap of faith, believing that God will take care of us. The almighty is forever faithful, and He will be with us each step of the way if only we believe it so and answer the call when He calls us. You will never feel more alive and overjoyed when you try to do something that you have always felt like doing but maybe never had enough time or faith to try. Hear the call and do something about it.

CHURCH BUILDING

We begin to build a church for Peter next week. We have already purchased the bricks and window frames and half of the cement. Not only does his congregation need a church as they are growing so fast and meet outdoors but the villagers have been telling everyone that we cannot be trusted as we have been talking about a church and nothing has been done. Africa is a continent of NOW. All has to be done today especially if the missionaries say they will do it. We need another \$750 to complete this project.

Added to that we have a primary school that needs new classrooms. They have 571 children and two classrooms. We promised the villagers that if they made the bricks, we would do the rest. We are looking at \$2,400 to complete two new blocks consisting of four classrooms. The more girls we can keep in school the less likelihood of them becoming victims of child marriage or prostitution. Parents use their daughters so that they can pay for their sons to be educated.